



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

AUG 24 2020

The Honorable Michael Waltz
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Waltz:

I am writing in response to a request from Representatives Stephanie Murphy, Dan Crenshaw, and Michael Waltz for posthumous award of the Medal of Honor to Alwyn C. Cashe, Sergeant First Class (SFC), U.S. Army, under 10 U.S.C. § 1130, "Consideration of proposals for decorations not previously submitted in timely fashion: procedures for review."

I reviewed the proposal to upgrade the Silver Star Medal, awarded posthumously to SFC Cashe for his valorous actions on October 17, 2005 in Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, to the Medal of Honor. After giving the nomination careful consideration, I agree that SFC Cashe's actions merit award of the Medal of Honor.

However, 10 U.S.C. § 7274 requires that the Medal of Honor be awarded "within five years after the date of the act justifying the award." Before we can take further action with this nomination, Congress must waive this time limit. Once legislation is enacted authorizing the President of the United States to award, if he so chooses, the Medal of Honor to SFC Cashe, I will provide my endorsement to the President. The final award authority for the Medal of Honor rests solely with the President. My favorable determination in no way presumes what the President's decision might be.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs. I am sending identical letters to the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate, Representative Murphy, and Representative Crenshaw.

Sincerely,

Matt T. Spence